

SITUATION REPORT NO. 1
INCIDENT NO. 98-002 (Continuation of 97-015)
DATE: January 9, 1998 TIME: 8:00 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: 1997 spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Devils Lake waters have frozen around 1,442.6 feet MSL. The lake has been at that level throughout late summer and fall. In recent years, the lake had been following a pattern of steep increases in the spring, peaking in July, falling slightly in the fall and rising somewhat through the winter. In respect to Devils Lake, impacts and damages to infrastructure, homes and businesses have been the recipient of over \$200 million in state and federal assistance since the flooding began in 1993. However, loss of land for agriculture production has been among the damage items most difficult to address.
4. RESOURCES:
LOCAL: No change from previous reports.
STATE: No change from previous reports.
FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: During the holidays, Red River Valley flood victims received donations and gifts from organizations throughout the nation. Those donations include a \$2 million donation for rebuilding efforts from First American Bank, Bremer Financial and the Otto Bremer Foundation. A Marshfield, Wis., church organized the "Red River Valley Christmas" campaign and sent a tractor-trailer load of donated goods. North Dakotans sent Christmas ornaments to Grand Forks residents, and school children sent toys and games to Grand Forks schools.

The North Dakota Disaster Recovery Coordinating Team has received \$64,000 from the North Dakota Community Foundation and \$18,000 from the Help Your Farm Neighbor Fund for the unmet needs of flood victims statewide.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor Schafer requested a Secretarial Disaster Designation on December 11 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for all eligible North Dakota counties. This additional disaster assistance would provide emergency loans and debt restructuring to agricultural producers and agricultural-related businesses. State and local USDA Emergency Boards compiled damage assessment reports to support the request and assist in eligibility determination.

North Dakota and Minnesota officials will meet January 13 in Fargo to develop plans for possible ice dusting missions. Last spring, the N.D. National Guard and the N.D. Department of Transportation applied sand to the Sheyenne and Red Rivers in an effort

to enhance snow melt, reduce the formation of ice jams and improve the flow of water during the spring melt. North Dakota participants will include the National Guard, the Department of Transportation, Department of Health, State Water Commission, and North Dakota Emergency Management. Minnesota participants will represent DOT, National Guard, Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural Resources and Minnesota Emergency Management. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Weather Service are also providing technical assistance in the development of ice dusting plans.

North Dakota Emergency Management and the COE are sponsoring several interagency flood preparedness meetings for local officials during the week of January 26-29 at various locations along the Red River of the North. The purpose of the meetings is to dialogue on potential preparedness activities regarding spring flooding, discuss operational measures that may be required and review procedures for requesting assistance and the types of assistance which may be available from various organizations for flood-fight operations. Meeting dates, times and locations are as follows:

Date	Time	Location
January 26	7:00 p.m.	Barnes County Courthouse, Valley City
January 27	10:00 a.m.	Law Enforcement Center, Wahpeton
January 27	3:00 p.m.	Regional Law Enforcement Center, Fargo
January 28	9:00 a.m.	Grand Forks City Hall, Grand Forks
January 28	1:30 p.m.	University of Minnesota at Crookston, Youngquist Auditorium
January 29	10:00 a.m.	Law Enforcement Center, Cavalier

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program application deadline has been extended from January 31 to March 1. The program has \$39 million available for projects designed to reduce or eliminate the risk of future flooding. To date, \$26 million has funded acquisition of homes in floodplains and infrastructure projects to include sluice gates, flap gates and lift stations.

On January 5, the N.D. Office of Intergovernmental Assistance (OIA) received its final allocation of \$3.5 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for flood-related recovery work. In total, OIA has received \$10.2 million in CDBG funding from U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds have been designated for infrastructure repair, rental and owner-occupied building rehabilitation and new construction projects.

In other flood-related work, OIA Energy staff members have approved 3,650 furnace rebates for Red River Valley residents whose homes and furnaces were damaged during the 1997 flood. Rebates totaling \$730,000 were issued to owners of single-family dwellings, including townhouses and duplexes, who had purchased replacement high efficiency natural gas or propane furnaces. Rebates were for furnaces purchased between March 1 and December 31, 1997.

The N.D. Department of Health and the Grand Forks Public Health Department have received more than \$650,000 in flood-related funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. One grant will fund an epidemiological surveillance program of flood-related physical and mental health problems. The State Department of Health will conduct the program in conjunction with Altru Health System (formerly United Hospital) in Grand Forks. Other participants include the Grand Forks Public Health Department and Northeast Human Service Center. A second grant will be used by the State Department of Health to study post-flood changes in health insurance coverage rates and utilization of health care services. A third grant will place three public health nurses in Grand Forks for two years, where they will provide services to public schools serving flood-displaced students, senior citizens and residents of temporary housing units.

Statewide, the total number of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policies in North Dakota grew from 3,872 to 12,445 in 1997. This represents a 321 percent increase in the number of policies. Additionally, there were 277 North Dakota communities enrolled in the NFIP in 1997 as compared to 241 in 1996.

A survey of approximately 1,500 Grand Forks residents by the Bureau of Governmental Affairs at

the University of North Dakota (UND) indicates that only 19.8 percent had purchased flood insurance before the 1997 spring flood disaster. The Bureau also surveyed Grand Forks city residents about their reasons for not purchasing flood insurance. The Bureau director said approximately 76 percent of the respondents did not think the Red River would crest above 49 feet. (The river crested at 54.1 feet.) Seventy percent believed that dikes and other flood control measures would prevent personal property damage, and 58 percent did not think that a flood would ever damage their homes. The N.D. Department of Insurance and the Institute for Business and Home Safety in Boston sponsored the survey.

Crisis counselors visited a total of 58,317 people in 1997. The N.D. Department of Human Services has received two grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the crisis counseling program. The grant amounts received to date total \$2.6 million. Both Lutheran Social Services and Northeast Human Service Center are providing crisis counseling to Grand Forks area residents. In the Fargo area, services are provided by the Village Family Services and Southeast Human Services. Lake Region Human Services provides counseling in the Devils Lake area, and State Department of Human Services counselors are working at Spirit Lake Nation. Additionally, counseling services are also available statewide through various providers.

FEMA and North Dakota Emergency Management have approved a \$649,000 grant to the Grand Forks School District to help with restoration of fire-damaged facilities at Belmont Elementary School. A New Year's Day fire destroyed four temporary classrooms and a food facility. The temporary classrooms were set up after the April flood damaged the school. The grant will reimburse the school system for costs associated with general clean up and debris removal; furniture, fixture, furnishing and equipment loss; restoring plumbing and electrical systems; replacing kitchen and technical equipment; and interior cleaning of water and smoke damage.

In early December, the Satellite Disaster Field Office in Grand Forks relocated to 1440 S. Washington Street. The new office phone number is (701) 795-5775.

A town hall meeting was held in Grand Forks on January 6 to provide the citizens the opportunity to discuss their concerns regarding the recovery process with city officials. More than 200 people attended and 20 spoke directly to officials. Concerns discussed included: the city's policy on downtown renovation; flood warning time; determining property values regarding commercial and home buyouts and Red River Basin management.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) expects a total of \$185 million in low-interest loans for businesses and individuals will be approved. To date, SBA has approved nearly \$180 million. To date, the SBA has received 11,671 loan applications, 6,920 of which have been approved. Of the loans, 55 percent were to home owners and renters for real estate and personal property losses, and 45 percent were to business owners for repairs to businesses and for lost income.

To date, 24,475 awards have been approved for more than \$54 million in Disaster Housing assistance provided by FEMA.

The Individual and Family Grant Program (IFGP), administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, has approved nearly \$14 million in grants to individuals for flood losses. The average IFGP grant is \$1,332. The staff has closed 23,237 cases. Of the more than 23,000 IFGP applications processed for grant awards, only 12 have been appealed by the applicant.

As of January 7, the FEMA and State Emergency Management Public Assistance staff have received 4,316 Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) and has obligated funds for 3,617 DSRs. Survey work has been completed for 429 applicants for the 1997 flood. More than \$118.6 million in infrastructure repairs, emergency work and debris removal has been determined to be eligible statewide.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: Other web site addresses for flood recovery information include:
- N.D. Division of Emergency Management: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>
 - N.D. League of Cities: <http://www.ndlc.org>
 - N.D. State Water Commission: <http://water.swc.state.nd.us>
 - N.D. Attorney General Office: <http://www.state.nd.us/ndag>
 - N.D. Department of Agriculture: <http://www.state.nd.us/agr/>
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: <http://www.ncs-wc.usace.army.mil>
 - U.S. Geological Survey: <http://srv1dndbmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/index.html>

Douglas C. Friez, State Director